

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 238939

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 LAB-06 COME-00 SIL-01

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DRAFTED BY IO/LABW:RCHEATER

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

LABOR:EBPERSONS

COMMERCE:ARDELONG

S/IL:TDBOWIE

EUR:DGOOTT

----- 056559

R 061814Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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PAGE 02 STATE 238939

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652 NA

SUBJECT: ILO - SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING

TAGS: ILO, PFOR, AORG

REF: GENEVA 6334

1. SUMMARY. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT ILO MAY BE DRIFTING INTO A DANGEROUS PATTERN OF GIVING FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO SEPARATE MEETINGS OUTSIDE AGENDA OF APPROVE ILO CONFERENCES THAT ARE CALLED BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WITHIN THE ILO MEMBERSHIP, AND WE WISH TO OPPOSE THIS TREND.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE MAY BE MANEUVERED, WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY, INTO PROVIDING THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING PLANNED FOR JANUARY 19, 1974, WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT, OR WITH SUPPORT THAT HAS CONCEALED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. GIVEN THE PROBABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS MEETING, WE THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY IMPROPER FOR THE ILO TO GIVE IT ANY SUPPORT AT ALL. END SUMMARY.

3. REQUEST MISSION TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL BOLIN, WHO, AS MANAGER OF ILO SECOND EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE JANUARY 14-25, 1974, WILL BE THE SENIOR ILO OFFICIAL ON WHOM SPONSORS OF TRADE UNION MEETING ARE MOST LIKELY TO PUT

PRESSURE. YOU SHOULD OPEN BY SAYING THAT IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF USG THAT ILO MAY BE CALLED ON TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE TRADE UNION MEETING, AND STATE THAT THE USG WISHES TO DISCUSS THIS IN ITS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BODY. AS SUCH WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT ILO FUNDS ARE SPENT ONLY FOR PURPOSES APPROVED
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PAGE 03 STATE 238939

DY GOVERNING BODY AND AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE EXPENDITURE BUDGET. YOU MAY REFER TO JUNE 2, 1973, DEBATE AT 190TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY (PAGES ROMAN THREE, ARABIC THREE AND FOUR OF GB.190/PV) THE DRAFT MINUTES, IN WHICH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL JENKS STATED THAT US QUESTION ON WHETHER DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD AUTHORITY TO SERVICE TRADE UNION MEETINGS OR WHETHER GOVERNING BODY SHOULD DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE "WOULD BE BORNE IN MIND."

4. MISSION SHOULD DESCRIBE TO BOLIN THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS THAT THE USG HAS TO ILO'S PROVIDING ANY FINANCIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR A MEETING OF THE

TYPE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.

A. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING ARE GOING TO INCLUDE GROUPS OUTSIDE THE ILO. THEY WILL REPRESENT TRADE UNION CENTERS, AND WHETHER OR NOT WORKER DELEGATES TO THE ILO, WILL PARTICIPATE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE UNION CENTERS AND NOT AS ILO WORKER DELEGATES. NO MATTER HOW THE INVITATIONS ARE MADE OUT, THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE, AS WAS THE MEETING ON APARTHEID OF JUNE 1973, A MEETING OF THE ILO WORKERS GROUP.

B. PROPOSED TRADE UNION MEETING HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED FOR INCLUSION IN THE ILO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY THE GOVERNING BODY, NOR HAS ANY ILO FUNDING FOR SERVICING SUCH A MEETING BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OR THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE.

C. IN ADDITION TO THE REASONS SET FORTH IN A. AND B. ABOVE, THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF ILO SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MEETING IS INTENSIFIED BY WHAT WE UNDERSTAND MAY BE THE DELIBERATE INTENTION OF THE SPONSORS TO EXCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND GREECE WHO, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL ORIENTATION, ARE STATES MEMBERS OF THE ILO AND OF ITS EUROPEAN REGION. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO USG THAT THE ILO COULD ASSIST A REGIONAL MEETING THAT DELIBERATELY, AND FOR POLITICAL REASONS, EXCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF ILO MEMBERS OF THAT REGION.

D. THE FACT THAT COSTS FOR ILO SUPPORT OF SUCH A MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 STATE 238939

MIGHT BE CONCEALED UNDER THE COSTS OF THE COINCIDENT ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND NEVER APPEAR IN FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS AS IDENTIFIABLE ITEMS IS IRRELEVANT. WE OBJECT TO THE FACT OF SUCH SUPPORT AS WELL AS THE FORM.

E. IF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING IS HELD, IT SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF SPONSORS, NOT ILO, TO PAY FOR USE OF ANY PREMISES THAT THE ILO HAS LEASED OR RENTED FOR HOLDING THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE, AND TO PAY THE GOING RATE FOR INTERPRETERS, DOCUMENTATION SERVICES, AND ANY OTHER SUPPORT REQUIRED.

5. COMMENT. THE TRADE UNION MEETING ON APARTHEID OF JUNE 1973 WAS MARGINAL IN ITS ACCEPTABILITY, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS DESIGNATED AS A MEETING OF THE ILO CONFERENCE WORKERS GROUP, AND ISS ACTION WAS LINKED TO ILO CONFERENCE ACTION. AS SUCH, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY THE ILO WAS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE ILO CONFERENCE. THE EUROPEAN TRADE

UNION MEETING, HOWEVER, IS NOT BEING CLEARLY SO DESIGNATED. UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, THERE IS NO BASIS ON WHICH TO CLAIM ILO FUNDING AUTHORIZED UNDER EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE BUDGET CREDIT. SUCH FUNDING WOULD MOVE US CLOSER TO ESTABLISHING A PATTERN IN WHICH ANY GROUP OF ILO DELEGATES, ASSEMBLED FOR A LEGITIMATE ILO MEETING, CAN CONVENE A SEPARATE CONFERENCE OF PARTICIPANTS UNRELATED TO ILO MEMBERSHIP TO ADVANCE ITS POLITICAL AIMS AT THE FINANCIAL EXPENSE OF THE ILO. IF THIS PATTERN IS SET, WE CAN EXPECT THE LEVEL OF ILO FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SUCH COMPANION MEETING TO BE PUSHED HIGHER AND HIGHER. THE EFFORT THAT WE UNDERSTAND IS BEING MADE TO HAVE THE INVITATIONS ISSUED WITH SOME KIND OF ILO CACHET ON THEM IS PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS IN THAT IT WOULD MAKE THE ILO APPEAR TO BE FOSTERING A REGIONAL MEETING FROM WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME OF ITS OWN MEMBERS ARE DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE MEMBERS OF THAT REGION. END COMMENT.

6. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT BOLIN DISCUSS THIS WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND THEN GIVE US A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 05 STATE 238939

STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE'S VIEWS. (FYI WE INTEND TO HAVE MISSION DISCUSS CERTAIN OTHER SENSITIVE MATTERS WITH BLANCHARD SOON, AND DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOU CONFRONT HIM DIRECTLY ON THIS ISSUE.) KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: GENEVA INFO USUN N Y
ATHENS
BELGRADE
BERN
BONN
BRUSSELS
BUCHAREST

BUDAPEST
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
THE HAGUE
HELSINKI
LONDON
LISBON
LUXEMBOURG
MADRID
MOSCOW
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